

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant has carefully considered this application in connection with the Examiner's Action and respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

The Applicant originally submitted Claims 1-27 in the application. The Applicant has previously canceled Claims 1, 7, 10, 16, 19 and 25 and added Claims 28-51. Claim 33 has been amended herein. Accordingly, Claims 2-6, 8-9, 11-15, 17-18, 20-24 and 26-51 are currently pending in the application.

I. Formal Matters and Objections

The Examiner has objected to Claim 33 because of the informality: "a button" (line 3) should read "a first button." In response, the Applicant has amended Claim 33 to correct this inadvertent error and appreciates the Examiner's diligence in finding and bringing such error to the Applicant's attention.

II. Rejection of Claims 2-6, 8-9, 11-15, 17-18, 20-24 and 26-51 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2-3, 5-6, 8-9, 11-12, 15, 17-18, 20-24, 26-33, 35-39 and 41-51 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,029,192 to Birrell, *et al.* (Birrell), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,991,798 to Ozaki, *et al.* (Ozaki). The Examiner also rejected Claims 4, 9, 13, 34 and 40 as being unpatentable over Birrell in view of Ozaki and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,742,030 to McPhail. The Examiner indicated in paragraph 5 of the Office

Action that previously withdrawn Claims 7 and 10 were rejected as being unpatentable over Birrell in view of Ozaki. This appears to be an inadvertent error. The Examiner also listed Birrell as having U.S. Patent No. 6,092,192. U.S. Patent No. 6,092,192 is an IBM patent issued to Kanevsky, D., *et al.*, entitled "Apparatus and Methods for Providing Repetitive Enrollment in a Plurality of Biometric Recognition Systems Based on an Initial Enrollment." In an earlier Office Action the Examiner cited Birrell as U.S. Patent No. 6, 029,164. The Applicant assumes for the purpose of this response that the Examiner is referring to the '164 patent in disallowing the various claims under 35 U.S.C. §103.

As the Examiner is no doubt aware, determination of obviousness requires consideration of the invention considered as a whole; the inquiry is not whether each element exists in the prior art, but whether the prior art made obvious the invention as a whole. Furthermore, there must be some suggestion or teaching in the art that would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the claimed invention; a reference that teaches away from a claimed invention strongly indicates nonobviousness.

Moreover, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on Applicant's disclosure.

Birrell discloses a method and apparatus for organizing and accessing electronic mail messages. Birrell describes the receipt of data records in an index server, where the data records are

parsed into words, and stored in a full-text index. Labels are added to the data records and the full-text index so that the data records can be accessed by searching using queries that include the words and labels of the data records. (Abstract).

Birrell does not teach or suggest an arrangement, system or program for establishing relationships between hypertext references contained in a plurality of electronic mail messages where a message parser is used to locate hypertext references. The Examiner cites col. 11, lines 54-63, of Birrell for the proposition that a parser locates hypertext references in first and second email messages. This passage does not teach or suggest a parser that locates hypertext links in electronic mail messages nor does it refer to the parsing of records or electronic mail messages for hypertext links. This passage refers to a user's option to use a hypertext or hot-link for the display of a previously parsed and stored message. The hypertext or hot-link referred to in the passage is a hypertext link associated with the message by the browser to permit user access to the message and not to a hypertext link within the message. The display of a message in a Java applet's window that allows the message to be accessed by clicking on the "hot-link" first line is a feature of the browser and Java applet and is not based on a hypertext link in the electronic mail message. Birrell does not teach or suggest that hypertext references can be parsed from electronic mail messages. All Birrell does is confirm that a user can access a stored message by taking advantage of a hypertext link to the message, which hypertext link is one associated with the browser and Java applet and is not in the electronic mail message.

Ozaki does not overcome the shortcoming of Birrell. Ozaki describes an information displaying method and apparatus for linking information stored in an information storing means, such as a CD-ROM, and information stored in a common information storing means, such as a

server connected via a communication medium. (Col. 5, lines 22-31). Ozaki does not overcome the shortcomings of Birrell because it also does not contain any teaching or suggestion that a message parser can be used to locate hypertext links in a plurality of electronic mail messages.

Birrell, individually or in combination with Ozaki, thus fails to teach or suggest the invention recited in independent Claims 28, 37 and 43 and their dependent claims, when considered as a whole. Claims 2-6, 8-9, 11-15, 17-18, 20-24 and 26-51 are therefore not obvious in view of Birrell and Ozaki. In view of the fact that the cited references do not support the Examiner's rejection of Claims 2-6, 8-9, 11-15, 17-18, 20-24 and 26-51 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

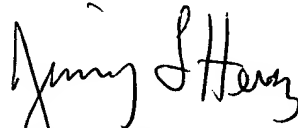
III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicant now sees all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and earnestly solicits a Notice of Allowance for Claims 2-6, 8-9, 11-15, 17-18, 20-24 and 26-51.

The Applicant requests the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, credits or overpayments to Deposit Account 08-2395.

Respectfully submitted,

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